

# NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

## Washington Taxpayer Slowly Easing Conscience

**WASHINGTON**—Who is "H. D. V."—Haunted, apparently, by a sense of remorse that demands complete atonement, a person signing these initials is sending every month to the collector of taxes of the District government a five-dollar bill, urging each time that it be credited to the "conscience fund" of the District.

There is never an explanation as to why the sender feels called upon to contribute the money, nor any indication as to how many of these five-dollar bills will have to be sent before full recompense is made.

From the fact that the money is sent in monthly installments, however, officials in the collector's office assume that "H. D. V." is not any too well off, and that many self-denials must be made to meet the payments.

Thus far a total of \$15 has come from the mysterious contributor. Two of the three installments were sent from Atlantic City, and the last from Washington.

With no other clue as to the address of the sender, all that Collector Prince has been able to do each time is to issue a general "Thank you."

## Has Funniest Job in District of Columbia

**VARIOUS** members of the District government may claim to have the hardest, the most irksome, the most complicated, and the superlatives of all sorts of jobs. Charles F. Nesbit, superintendent of insurance, says he has the funniest. Not that he doesn't work—no, he is some claimant there too—but the jocund of humor is his almost daily.

The other day a series of complaints began coming in against a concern with a high-sounding Biblical name. This was only one of a score of such organizations, claiming to pay sick and accident benefits, which turn up continually to baffle Nesbit's busy life.

Superintendent Nesbit summoned the "president" of the concern, a dapper, reddish-tied, gentleman of color.

"I hear your company hasn't been paying claims. Don't you know you can't do business in the District? You haven't any license," the visitor was told.

"Now, boss, you've surely said a mouthful. We sure can't seem to do business—that's why we ain't paid them claims. But we tries to collect mos' regular, sir."

Nesbit told him he would have to stop collecting in the absence of a license.

"Say, here, does this license cost money?"

"Yes."

"Well, Mister Nesbit, that's just the way this govn'ment carries on. Now,

I ain't got no money to pay claims with yet, you-all want me to pay for a license so I can pay dem claims."

The organization has stopped collecting, but has not started paying claims.

The next laugh came from the report of an inspector. A colored woman complained that she had been ill for two weeks, and no benefits had been paid. The insurance company stated that no medical certificate had been received from her.

The inspector called around to ask her about this.

"Lawd, honey, I clean forgot. Just you lif up that scarf on the bureau and there's your certificate."

The inspector found the certificate, all right, and four more, for four successive weeks in advance.

## Proposed National Forest in Washington Area

**T**HIS proposed and planned conservation of the power of the Potomac river above Washington, the submergence of many localities and topographic features long familiar to Washington people, and the conversion of the river from Great Falls to a point near the Little Falls into a lake call to mind a plan for conserving the high wooded lands along the river. It was a plan to which considerable publicity was given at and following the National Conservation congress held at St. Paul, Minn., in 1916, and it is still alive.

William M. Ellcott of Baltimore suggested the creation of a great national forest of Columbia. It was proposed to extend park bordering on the District to accomplish this by acquiring reservations along the Patowmack and Anacostia rivers, covering territory between Washington, Annapolis and Baltimore, and preserving the Palisades and banks of the Potomac from Mount Vernon to and beyond the Great falls. A committee of the American Institute of Architects on the conservation of natural resources—George Brown, William M. Ellcott, James Knox Taylor and Cass Gilbert—drawn up a report endorsing this proposition.

It is pointed out that the presence of cleared lands within the forest boundaries would not be a disadvantage because the best of the farm lands could be used as experimental farms in cooperation with the department of agriculture, while those less adapted for agriculture could be planted in forests. There are many foreign trees that have not been fully tried in this country under forest conditions. The rate of growth of most of our native species, under the most favorable conditions as would result in planting, had not been determined at the time of the discussion of the Capital National forest, and it was reported that "the field of forest experimentation is a large and promising one which would find here the ideal conditions for its fulfillment."

**Old Columns Reproduced by National Museum**

**A**T THE National museum a weird and beautiful model has been erected. At the front entrance of the building have been placed two great columns surrounded by lintels of wood, the whole forming an arch. The religious history of the original columns is a very ancient one. From them has been learned much concerning the aborigines of Central America.

Archaeology has disclosed the fact that at the portal of every place of worship two great columns stood guard. No single complete example of these columns has ever been found, and the erection of the model in the museum was made possible under the personal direction of Dr. W. H. Holmes.

"I have eagerly watched the construction of our model of these great-feathered serpent columns found in the neighborhood of Yucatan at the entrance of numerous temples and frequently scattered down the slopes of the pyramids or buried in the great mass of debris about their bases," said Doctor Holmes.

"The significance of the column is a very fascinating one common to nearly every branch of native art. The feathered-serpent god Quetzalcoatl of the Aztecs (quetzal—a beautifully plumed bird of middle America, and coatl—the snake), and the corresponding deity Kukulcan of the Maya people (kukul—bird, and kan—snake), hold first place in the mythology of these peoples. Nearly the entire surface of the body represented in the column is covered with plumes typifying the bird element, while the general conformation, the projecting tongue, bulbous fangs, four-inspiring eyes and beaded rattle symbolize the snake. The desire of the peoples was apparently for a god that like the bird could fly and yet had the readiness to strike characteristic of the snake."

**INTERESTING ITEMS.**

Argentina has enacted civil service retirement legislation.

Seventy-six American cities have public employment bureaus.

A telephone wire swing for 1200 yards across the Yukon river.

The Canadian city of Shefford has 400 steel manufacturing concerns.

Super cars to protect automobiles in storage have been invented.

A sewing machine has been invented to stitch together baseball covers.

Tattooing was a distinct trade in Caesar's time.

According to a British chemist, tobacco ashes contain 20 per cent of poisons.

With a new motor truck body one man can dump a load of two tons in 30 seconds.

All the steam railways in New Zealand are owned and operated by the government.

Spain is believed to have 5,000,000,000 tons of coal in deposits scattered over nine provinces.

John Z. Vogeisang is the dean of Chicago restaurant men.

## EAGLETS.

Judge Scully made a fine record on the Municipal Court bench. He is making even a better one as County Judge.

Popular Jack Henderson would make a good member of the State Board of Equalization.

Jeremiah B. O'Connell, the able lawyer, has thousands of admirers who want to see him on the judicial bench.

George W. Paulin, the great furrier, has made a business record for honesty and integrity that wins for him hosts of friends.

John B. Knight of 72 West Washington street is one of the leaders in the real estate world.

Edward J. Birx, the well known brewer, makes friends everywhere he goes and would make a great race for public office if he would allow his name to be used.

Dow R. Lewis would make a good County Commissioner.

Clarence S. Darrow is always the friend of the poor and the downtrodden and no one stands higher at the bar.

John Z. Vogeisang has done much to make the restaurant the attractive feature of Chicago life that it is today.

William F. Quinnan, "the father of Edgewater," has a host of friends all over Chicago.

Judge Thomas F. Scully has made a splendid record in the County Court. The people have confidence in him and their confidence has never been misplaced, either when the judge was on the Municipal bench or in his present responsible position.

C. A. Smith, the veteran pianomaker, is respected by all who know him.

H. Schmidt of 267 Center street has a host of friends who would back him for public office.

John J. Calman, the well known plumber at 440 South Dearborn street, makes friends out of everybody he does business with by his straightforward methods.

Matt Aller would make a good City Treasurer. He is a sterling Democrat and has worked hard to put many good men into public office.

Charles S. Thornton, the well known lawyer, has honored every office he ever filled from president of the board of education to corporation counsel.

Henry J. Thom, principal of the Gregg School at 6 North Michigan Avenue, has brought this deservedly popular educational institution to a high degree of perfection. Professor Holm for over twenty years has borne an honored reputation among the educators of the country.

Harry W. Cooper reports a big demand for Batavia tires. They are more popular than ever.

Hermon Weber, for years the popular proprietor of the Union Hotel and restaurant, is working hard to advance the business of the Chicago Puncture Proof Tire Company, of which his son, E. H. Weber, is the Chicago agent. This company manufactures pneumatic tire casings which are guaranteed to go 4,500 miles without a puncture or a blowout.

W. L. Bodine, the efficient chief of the bureau of compulsory education, has made a nation wide name for his department.

Nelson N. Lamont is the strongest Republican candidate named for State Treasurer.

One of the very best Aldermen in the City Council, is Edward F. Cullerton. He has been longest in the public service of any member of the City Council and his usefulness to the people has been demonstrated over and over again.

Stillman B. Jamieson is one of the coming men in the Republican party. He is honest and able.

Harry E. Kellogg, the popular proprietor of the Blue Ribbon Laundry at 513 North Clark street, is building up a fine business.

John D. Gallivan, the veteran letter carrier, is one of the most popular men in the service of Uncle Sam.

A. T. Koehne of 110 Webster avenue, is frequently mentioned for Alderman of the Twenty-fourth ward, although he is not looking for any office himself.

Henry Stuckart made a good record as City Treasurer, a good record as South Town assessor and a good record as alderman. He certainly will make a good record as county treasurer.

The Lyon Brand tires are in great demand. The Auto Tire Sales Company at 1346 Michigan avenue, of which T. S. Shattuck is the manager, never hear anything but words of praise for the Lyon Brand, of which they sell an immense number, both at wholesale, to the trade and retail to private individuals.

Spain is believed to have 5,000,000,000 tons of coal in deposits scattered over nine provinces.

John Z. Vogeisang is the dean of Chicago restaurant men.

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CHICAGO, ILL.

## WHERE TO EAT

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